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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01

DRC-01 EB-11 /091 W
---------- 047169
R 151215Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 544
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 464

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, ETRD, CE, IN
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S VISIT TO INDIA

REF: COLOMBO 319; DELHI 1597

1. SINCE TRANSMISSION COLOMBO 319, EMBASSY HAS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH W T JAYASINGHE, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND H.A. DE S. GUNASEKERA, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (BOTH MEMBERS OF PRIME MINISTERS PARTY ON VISIT), OBTAINED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFO AND COMMENT ON INDIA TRIP. GSL OFFICIALS CONSIDER THAT NEW DELHI TALKS WENT WELL AND THAT RESULTS WERE BENEFICIAL.

2. ECONOMIC ISSUES: GUNASEKERA CONFIRMED PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS OF TOPICS COVERED: AGRICULTURE: CATTLE AND SHEEP BREEDING AND REARING PROJECTS; INDUSTRY: INDIA OFFERED LONG-TERM $15 MILLION LOAN, EQUIPMENT, AND SERVICES FOR PROPOSED FERTILIZER PLANT. RE LAST PROJECT, GUNASEKERA ALSO SAID ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) HAS COMMITTED $25 MILLION AND THAT GSL IS LLOKING FOR OTHER SOURCES OF FINANCE FOR TOTAL, ACCORDING ADB'S CALCULATIONS, OF $58 MILLION OR MORE. INDIA HAS UNDERTAKEN TO BUY ANY SURPLUS FERTILIZER PRODUCED BY UREA FACTORY.

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3. OTHER ECONOMIC MATTERS DISCUSSED WERE:

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A) RUBBER PRODUCTS FACTORY FOR CONVEYOR BELTIFH HOSES
AND POSSIBLY TIRES, PRODUCTION OF WHICH INDIA WOULD BUY.

B) POWER GRID LINKAGE BETWEEN SRI LANKA AND INDIA
POWER GRIDS ACROSS PALK STRAITS;

C) TELECOMMUNICATIONS: INDIA HAS AGREED TO FINANCE NEW
MICROWAVE LINK BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES;

D) TRAININOTIN MICA MINING, PROVISION OF CERTAIN LABORATORY
EQUIPMENT FOR SCHOOLS, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN VARIOUS SECTORS.

E) POSSIBILITY OF JOINT MARKETING OF TEA.

4. GUNASEKERA SAID IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY FORMAL AGREEMENT WILL
BE SIGNED BETWEEN INDIA AND SRI LANKA ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUT
THAT INDIVIDUAL UNDERSTANDINGS ON PROJECTS WOULD BE CONFIRMED BY
EXCHANGES OF LETTERS.

5. POLITICAL ISSUES:

A) NON-ALIGNED: GUYANA HAD PROPOSED NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN 1975
INSTEAD OF 1976. SRI LANKA HAD BEEN WELL DISPOSED TOWARD
THIS PROPOSAL BUT TITO AND MRS GANDHI WERE NOT IN FAVOR
SO IDEA WAS DROPPED.

B) REPATRIATION: GSL IS PLEASED WITH AGREEMENT ON REMAINING
150,000 STATELESS IN SRI LANKA (50-50 SPLIT WITH INDIA).
GROUND RULES REGARDING REPATRIATION OF ASSETS AND PVOPERTY
REMAIN SAME. UNDER 19764 AGREEMENT, REPATRIATION WAS TO BE COMPLETED
BY OCT 1979 BUT DEADLINE WAS EXTENDED DURING OFFICIAL TALKS
LAST YEAR TO JUNE 1981. UNDER LATEST AGREEMENT COVERING REMAINING
150,000 NEW COMPLETION DATE FOR REPATRIATION OF ALL STATELESS
IS JUNE 1983.

C) KACHCHATIVU: CEYLONESE SEEM REASONABLY CONFIDENT SOMETHING
CAN BE WORKED OUT IN NEXT SIX MONTHS. THERE ARE TWO INTERRELATED
QUESTIONS HERE: SOVEREIGNTY OF ISLAND AND MEDIAN LINE OF TERRI-
TORIAL WATERS. WE UNDERSTAND GSL IS WILLING CONCEDE ON MEDIAN
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LINE IN RETURN FOR CONCESSION OF RECONGNITION OF SOVEREIGNTY.
VAN HOLLEN

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